

THE
GLEMSFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

In the Administrative County of West Suffolk and the Sudbury Union.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1904.

Prepared in accordance with the Regulations of the Local Government Board and of
the West Suffolk County Council.

Population 1891, 2375; 1901, 1975. Area in Acres 2246. Number of persons per acre 0.9.

Inhabited houses 456, Average Number of persons per house 4.3.

Geological formation: boulder clay with intercalating beds of drift sands and gravel, Chalk underlying on highest ground at a depth of about 130 ft., less in the valleys. Superficially alluvium.

The Parish of Glemsford, which formed part of the Melford Rural District, obtained Urban Powers on the 1st. October, 1896 and became a separate district. This is the Eighth Annual Report to the Glemsford Urban District Council.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS The number of births registered during the year was 46, the same as the year before, equivalent to a birth-rate of 23.2 per 1,000 of the population. The number is below the average when compared with the birth-rates during the previous seven years, which were as follows :

	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Births	...	64	62	71	47	50	40	46
Birth-rate	...	26.9	26.0	29.8	19.7	25.4	20.3	23.2

DEATHS. The number of deaths from all causes registered during the year, amounted to 26, equivalent to the death-rate of 13.1 per 1000 of the population. The deaths for the past seven years were as follows :

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Deaths	...	31	33	30	50	30	37
Death-rate	...	13.0	13.9	12.6	25.4	14.2	13.1

Infant Mortality There were 6 deaths under one year of age, showing a mortality of 130.4 calculated on the rate per 1000 of births registered. Three of these deaths were due to premature birth.

The following is the record for the last seven years :

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Deaths of children under one year	7	7	7	18	7	7	6
Rate per 1000 of births registered	12.9	98.5	149.0	360.0	163.1	152.1	130.4

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases Only one occurred during the year from Scarlet Fever. For the past seven years the Zymotic death-rate was as follows ;

1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
0	0	1.0	7.5	0	2.0	0.5

OTHER CAUSES. There were two deaths due to Phthisis, four to Bronchitis and Pneumonia. Seven were from Senile Decay of persons over 77 years of age.

This year's death-rate is one of the lowest recorded and is mainly owing to the absence of deaths from Zymotic diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION. The number of cases notified during the year was 28, or 14 per 1,000 of the population, and consisted of Erysipelas 4, Scarlet Fever 24.

Scarlet Fever. A few cases of this disease kept occurring from February to October, but at no time became epidemic. The majority of them were infants, and in April the infant school was closed for a week for the purpose of cleansing and disinfecting. The disease was of an exceedingly mild type and all recovered, the 24 cases occurred in 14 families. Carbolised oil and disinfectants were supplied, and at the proper time the affected houses were disinfected.

Water Supply. The five public pumps have yielded a constant supply during the year. Substantial progress has been made in the scheme for providing the district with a general supply from Water Works. The boring which was in operation at the time of my last annual report, has after unusual difficulties reached a most abundant supply of good water. It was expected, judging from the depths of neighbouring wells, that the water bearing chalk strata would be reached at a depth of about 120 feet, instead of which a boring of 471 feet had to be sunk through drift before chalk was touched. This was a most extraordinary and unexpected difficulty : the boring having evidently penetrated into a huge hollow or valley in the chalk, filled with the sands clay and gravels of the Glacial drift. Mr. W. Whitaker F.G.S. who advised this site for the boring, reports to me that it is the greatest thickness of drift deposit as yet recorded at least in Southern England.

The boring was extended to a depth of 520 feet, when the water rose 18 inches above the ground level. Four feet below this surface there now issues an overflow at the rate of 60,700 gallons per day. The scheme for distribution of this supply is now awaiting the sanction of the Local Government Board.

The following is the analysis of the water as it issues from the boring—

Description of Sample.	Ammonia.		Chlorine.	Nitrogen as Nitrates.	Oxygen required.	Nitrites.	Total Solids in Solution.	Hardness, Before Boiling.	Hardness, After Boiling.	Microscopic Examination Colour, &c.
	Free	Organic.								
Public Supply.	.016	.000	3.95	nil.	.007	nil.	43.05	29.8	12.1	Slight deposit of fine iron rust on standing. No smell or colour.

Remarks—This is an excellent water of great organic purity, and quite free from all signs of pollution. It is a very hard water, almost half is removed by boiling. The chief defect in the sample is the fine iron rust in suspension, probably arising from the action of the water in the iron tubes, and may therefore be only a temporary defect.

W. LINCOLN SUTTON, F.L.C.

Norfolk and Suffolk County Laboratories.

I may add to this report that the hardness of the water is certain to diminish when in constant use. When the Sudbury water supply was established, taken from a much deeper well in the chalk, the hardness was precisely the same as above, viz., 29.6 : after twenty years' use this was reduced to 10.6.

SEWERS & GENERAL SANITATION The following is the report of the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Herbert L. Taylor.

- " No new sewers were laid down this year.
- " Eleven new privies erected.
- " Eight privy cesspools converted into pail closets.
- " Number of Inspections made, 286.
- " Nuisances remedied by written notice, 21.
- " Nuisances remedied by verbal notice, 52.
- " No new houses were erected.

Systematic as well as special inspections have been made throughout the District.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. No complaints have been received from H.M. Inspector of factories and workshops.

There are twenty-five workshops, including eight bakehouses. These were generally found satisfactory, and kept in accordance with their respective regulations and orders. Any sanitary defects to which attention was called were at once remedied.

Lists of outworkers were received and the dwellings when inspected were found satisfactory.

Tabular statements, according to the form supplied by the Local Government Board, of sickness and mortality within the district, are appended to the official reports. Also a tabular statement according to the form required by the West Suffolk County Council.

J. SINCLAIR HOLDEN, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.